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slope of the Cascade Mountains, Washington Territory, alt. 3,500–6,000 ft.;" T. S. Brandege, in herb. Sprague. Spermatophytes do not appear. The general aspect is distantly comparable with that of *Siphula torulosa*, and the nearly akin *S. coriacea* (Tayl.) Nyl. A fruticulose manner of growth is so very remarkable in the Verrucariacei that the present lichen must be separated from all sections of *Endocarpon*, whether or not the generic rank be maintained. It is appropriately inscribed to the unwearied cryptogamist, my ever liberal friend, C. J. Sprague, Esq., who has especially directed research into the lichen-flora of the Pacific coast.

A New Species of *Oxytheca*.

By C. C. PARRY.

Since the summer of 1881 the writer has had under inspection, from two successive years' collections, in abundant specimens showing all stages of development, an anomalous plant of the Eriogoneæ group, found in that district of curious vegetable forms, the Mojave Desert of Southern California.

Unwilling to decide on its true relations with the other members of this extensive and peculiar Western American family without a careful examination of all the accessible allied genera, I was for some time inclined to regard it as the type of a new genus, to which, at the suggestion of Prof. Asa Gray, I applied the provisional name of *Gymnogonum spinescens*, ined. Under this name, herbarium specimens have been sparingly distributed.

Later, in correspondence with Mr. Sereno Watson on this subject, he suggested that by a very slight modification of the generic character of *Oxytheca*, the plant might appropriately come into that genus. In deference to his judgment, as well as in accordance with my own more matured convictions, I have finally adopted this view, and, suppressing the unpublished herbarium name of *Gymnogonum spinescens*, I present herewith a description of the plant as follows:

OXYTHECA LUTEOLA, *n. sp.*—Plant prostrate (3 to 10 inches broad), dichotomously branched from the base, smooth, or with scattered pubescence on the slender branches; leaves orbicular to oblong-obovate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lines in width, with slender petioles three or four times as long, covered below with dense woolly pubescence, smoother above, the cauline in one-sided pairs (the third at each node obsolete or nearly so), one or both passing into linear-aciculate bracts; involucre sessile, 5-parted, the spreading unequal divisions resembling the bracts, the longer 2 to 5 lines in length (including the slender awn) and about equalling the bracts; flowers pubescent, crowded (7 to 15), developing centripetally, the short pedicel jointed at the base of the perianth and subtended by two bractlets, one linear, the other broader and scarious; perianth 6-cleft nearly to the middle, greenish-yellow; filaments short; anthers short-oval; styles short, with spreading capitate stigmas; akenes smooth; cotyledons orbicular, accumbent to the longer radicle.

Habitat.—Growing on moist, sandy soil near Lancaster Station, on the Mojave Desert, June to August; No. 259, C. C. Parry, Pacific

Coast Flora, 1881. Distinguished from other species by the more rounded long-petiolate leaves, which, as well as the bracts, are mainly in pairs instead of ternate (as occurs more or less frequently in some other species), by the closely sessile and unequally parted involucre, and by the yellowish flowers; in all other respects according with the generic character, thus increasing the accepted species of the genus to eight.

The Bulbs of *Epilobium palustre*.—Those who wish to see the bulbs of *Epilobium palustre*, L. (the *E. squamatum* of Nuttall) may find them in moist low grounds when they first appear in spring. Later, the fleshy scales of the bulbs decay and disappear. In autumn, they are found at the ends of slender stolons attached to the parent root. They are then about an inch long, of a dusky flesh-color, the scales regularly overlapping each other along the axis of growth, with the bud at the end. The roots spring from between the scales, and, as the latter decay as soon as their nutriment is absorbed by the growing plant, there are no bulbs to be seen by the time the flowers appear. The same bulbs appear on *E. molle*, Torr., and possibly on all the rest of the family.

LUCY A. MILLINGTON.

Distribution of Weeds.—Among the means whereby weeds are distributed, their being generally objectionable to cattle should not be overlooked. When in North Carolina, I noticed that wherever *Verbesina Siegesbeckia* had to struggle unaided with other native vegetation there were only plants here and there among scores of other species of vegetation. When it was growing in a pasture or along the roadside where cattle ate, it soon took possession of the whole surface, simply because cattle kept other species from seeding, while avoiding this, and thus it had the whole ground to itself. It is very often an argument that an introduced plant is better adapted to the new location than the native, because it seems to spread so rapidly; but in most cases it may be because cattle will not touch it, and there happen to be few other competitors of its class. It gets the whole field to itself. The ox-eye daisy and the buttercup spread so amazingly quite as much because cattle let them go to seed as that the climate or soil is unusually favorable. Around our large cities, *Stramonium*, wild chamomile, Canada thistle, wormseed and other well-known weeds spread only because goats, sheep, cows and geese avoid them, and they have thus nothing to interfere with their rapid spread. These remarks are suggested by an idea thrown out in a foreign periodical I have just been reading, that the great spread of some European weeds in America is a proof that they have found a soil and climate superior to those "for which they were specially created."

THOMAS MEEHAN.

New Species of Ferns.—In our next number, Prof. D. C. Eaton will describe some new United States ferns, give new stations for a number of old species, and notice Prof. Lemmon's very interesting discoveries made last August in Arizona.